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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/042,321 | 01/11/2002 | Takeya Miwa | Q68046 | 4431 |
| 23373 | 7590 | 03/22/2005 | EXAMINER | |
| SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20037 | | | FIGUEROA, FELIX O | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 2833 | |

DATE MAILED: 03/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/042,321

Applicant(s)

MIWA, TAKEYA

Examiner

Felix O. Figueroa

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 12-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on November 22, 2004 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 12, 15, 17 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (Figures 7-10).

Regarding claim 12, APA shows a socket assembly comprising: lamps (3), wires (7), and connectors (13), a lamp unit body (5); and a plurality of lamp sockets (1) mounted on the lamp unit body and electrically connected together through wires (7), each of the plurality of lamp sockets comprising: a socket body (1) including a wire connection portion (below flange 1b); a connector housing (1c) for accommodating one

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of the connectors (13) to the socket body, a bulb mounting portion (1a) for mounting a lamp (3) to the socket body; and a terminal member (2) provided within the socket body; wherein the terminal member being electrically directly connected to the connector, the lamp, and at least one of the wires; wherein the terminal includes two ends, one end (at 1b) including a press-connecting portion (8) provided within the wire connection portion of the socket body, the press-connecting portion contacting the terminal member to a conductor (11) of the at least one of the wires; wherein another end (at 1c) of the two ends has a connector portion that projects into the connector housing and contacts the connector, and wherein the lamp contacts a portion of the terminal member between the press-connecting portion and the connector portion (see Fig.7).

Regarding claims 15 and 20, APA discloses the one end (at 1b) including a press-connecting blade (9) which can bite into a sheath of the at least one of the wires to electrically connect the terminal member to the conductor of the at least one of the wires, and the other end (at 1c) including a male tab projecting into an interior of the connector housing for directly electrically connecting to the connector.

Regarding claim 17, APA discloses the terminal member (2) being a monolithic structure.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 13, 16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (Figures 7-10) in view of Tanigawa (US 6,086,408).

Applicant's APA discloses substantially the claimed invention except for the wire insertion grooves in which the terminal member is mounted. Tanigawa teaches a socket assembly (Fig1) comprising a plurality of lamp sockets, each having a socket body (Fig.4), a bulb mounting portion (32), a terminal member (23K); the socket body including a wire connection portion (see Fig.7) including wire insertion grooves in which the terminal member is mounted, and the terminal member including at one end a press-connecting blade (40K) which can bite into a sheath of a wire to electrically connector to a conductor of the wire to provide a more stable and secure connection between the blade and the wire. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the socket body of the APA having the wire connection portion including wire insertion grooves in which the terminal member is mounted, as taught by Tanigawa, to form a more stable and secure connection between the blade and the wire.

Regarding claim 16, see discussion on claim 15.

Claims 14, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's APA and Tanigawa, and further in view of Mews et al. (US 5,931,691).

The APA, as modified by Tanigawa, discloses substantially the claimed invention except for the opposed retaining projections. Mews teaches a lamp socket with a wire connection portion including a wire insertion groove (24) with opposed retaining projections (near 43 in Fig.1) at an end of an opening (please note that the projections

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are at a top end of the opening), and a distance between the opposed retaining projections is smaller than an outer diameter of the at least one of the wires to tightly retain the wire in the insertion groove. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the wire insertion groove of Tanigawa with opposed retaining projections, as taught by Mews, to tightly retain the wire in the insertion groove.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-11 are allowed.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Felix O. Figueroa whose telephone number is (571) 272-2003. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri., 10:00am-6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (571) 272-2800 Ext. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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